

## **Martin Luther King Site's Law Enforcement Staff Recognized**

By Michelle E Lewis

The Law Enforcement staff at Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site in Atlanta recently received special recognition for outstanding community service at the second annual Old Fourth Ward Law Enforcement Appreciation Day.

The staff received a letter of recognition from U.S. Senator Johnny Isakson, a certificate of Special Congressional Recognition from U.S. Congressman John Lewis, and a Spirit of Sweet Auburn Award from the neighboring community.

Under the leadership of Chief Ranger Clark Moore, the rangers have partnered with the Atlanta Police Department to create a neighborhood watch program and have forged a partnership with John Hope Elementary School, which is located within park boundaries. The Rangers regularly participate in meetings with federal, state and local Law Enforcement agencies (Atlanta Police Department, Georgia State Police, DEA, ICE, FPS) to work proactively to find solutions to law enforcement situations within the community.

The Appreciation Day event, which was established by Queen Merriweather, honors emergency personnel that work in the Old Fourth Ward. Merriweather stated that she has such a deep appreciation for Law Enforcement because her life was once saved by a Law Enforcement officer.

Old Fourth Ward is located in the eastern end of Atlanta's downtown and encompasses the area known as "Sweet Auburn," which held distinction during the mid-twentieth century as the country's richest African-American community. It is the community where Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. was born, lived the first twelve years of his life, and worked as leader of the Civil Rights Movement. The Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site is located in "Sweet Auburn," which in recent years has become a culturally diverse community.

Other agencies honored at this year's event were the Metropolitan Atlanta Rapid Transit Authority Police, Old Fourth Ward Fire Department, Zone 5 of the Atlanta Police Department, the Atlanta Fire Department, and Emergency Personnel from Grady Hospital.



Pictured (l to r): Chief Ranger Clark Moore, Congressman John Lewis, Ranger Kishma Christian, and Ranger Michelle Lewis. NPS Photo